

D-3-A-T
22 March 1957

Coordination

A. Geography differs from economic and political intelligence in three ways:

1. It must be characterized essentially as a methodology rather than a unique body of subject matter -- generalist rather than specialist.

2. The subject matter on which it does place great emphasis and which contrasts with the data of other disciplines -- location, terrain, soils, climate -- is realized as finished intelligence primarily in its applications to the data or evaluation of other disciplines or to operational responses to them. Its applications to data or evaluations, we term political, economic, sociological, physical geography. Its applications to operations, we identify as military geography, targeting, unconventional warfare, evasion and escape, border studies, and so forth.

3. The *locational and physical* data on which geography *uniquely* places great emphasis *are* non-dynamic; change is slow, and reflects mostly the accretion of more or better information rather than inherent change in the subject *matter* of the data.

B. General aspects of geography which can be centrally coordinated are data collection and basic interpretation. With respect to location, the standard mapping agencies -- Army Map Service, Geological Survey, Hydrographic Office -- are already coordinating data and basic interpretation for the

via standard maps
community, *as accessioned data* Maps ~~themselves~~ are coordinated by the IAMPCC. With respect to soils, climate, terrain, and other elements of physical geography, the National Intelligence Survey is the coordination instrument. Basic aspects of economic geography are produced for the community by Geological Survey, Bureau of Mines, Department of Agriculture, and so forth, as a necessary part of their function. Political and sociological geography may be expected to be picked up again by State Department, where ~~it~~ *they* properly belong.

central
C. The ~~coordination~~ of geography as it applies to ~~community interests~~ ~~and~~ operations seems out of the question. The 'need-to-know' principle is an immovable barrier. In any event, such duplication as there is is likely to be ~~very~~ necessary.

D. Opportunities in geography for a central coordination that is beneficial and not simply complicating are thus limited to a few side aspects. Tentatively, these would seem to include:

1. Aerial photography holdings.
2. Photo interpretation projects.
3. Cartographic programs and techniques.